

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes a new Figure 6. Figure 6 is the same as Figure 1 except that the spacers 5 are connected as disclosed in paragraph 40 and claimed in claim 9. Therefore, no new matter is entered by submission of Figure 6.

REMARKS

The paper is in response to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2009 ("the Office Action"). The foregoing amendment cancels claims 4, 5, 9, and 23-26 and amends claims 1. Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 10-22 are now pending in view of the amendments. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicants present remarks in the order that the Office Action raises the corresponding issues.

In connection with the prosecution of this case and any related cases, Applicants have, and/or may, discuss various aspects of the disclosure of the cited references as those references are then understood by the Applicants. Because such discussion could reflect an incomplete or incorrect understanding of one or more of the references, the position of the Applicants with respect to a reference is not necessarily fixed or irrevocable. Applicants thus hereby reserve the right, both during and after prosecution of this case, to modify the views expressed with regard to any reference.

Please note that Applicants do not intend the following remarks to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claims. Rather, Applicants present the distinctions below solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claims and the cited references. Finally, Applicants request that Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants' understanding and discussion of any reference is consistent with Examiner's understanding.

Unless otherwise explicitly stated, the term "Applicants" is used herein generically and may refer to a single inventor, a set of inventors, an appropriate assignee, or any other entity or person with authority to prosecute this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action objects to claim 9 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants rewrite claim 1 to represent claim 9 in independent form without altering the substance of the claims from that previously

presented by claim 9. Claims 2-3, 6-8, and 10-22 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1 as amended.

Charge Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any of the following fees that may be applicable to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178: (1) any filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16; (2) any patent application and reexamination processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17; and/or (3) any post issuance fees under 37 CFR § 1.20. In addition, if any additional extension of time is required, which has not otherwise been requested, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable. In the event that Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview or overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 22nd day of May, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

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